

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMMUNICATING DATA PACKETS USING A  
BACKPLANE SWITCH COUPLED TO A BACKPLANE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A communications device includes a backplane, backplane cards, and a backplane switch. Each backplane card is coupled to the backplane and assigned an industry standard-based network address. The backplane switch, also coupled to the backplane, receives a first data packet with a first network address assigned to a backplane card and communicates the first data packet to the backplane card using the backplane.